

## **Raphael, one of the seven holy angels of God**

Again and again this question is being asked: "Why was the chapel called by the name "Raphael"?"

The desire for a prayer and meditation room has prompted our community to build a space of silence and contemplation. For about four years, we have been building on our inner and outer chapel with the help of friends and acquaintances. Just before the inauguration, the question appeared about the name of the building. There were many ideas for names, such as, 'silence' or 'temple of the heart '. But none of these names should apply.

One night I saw in a dream a large heron circling over our home in Papenhausen. The heron asked me, "Do you know my name?". "No," I said, "I do not know who you are." Again the voice said: "You do not know who I am." "No, I do not know." "I am Raphael, the guardian of this place." The heron circled a few times over our home and ended up spiraling into the pond directly below the main building.

The dream was over. The next morning I watched from the living room to the pond, where I saw, for the first time, a heron standing in the water! Immediately the meaning of my dream was clear to me: we will dedicate our building to the name of the Archangel Raphael. His strength will help us to see God in our hearts and everywhere and to continue to learn about his presence.

On 23 November 1997 the chapel was consecrated to the name 'Raphael' by Pastor Cordes.

Since that time we have been engaged in intensive communication with the Archangel Raphael and his message to us humans.

In the Book of Tobit a pious Israelite named Tobit, who after the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel experienced God's help, tells a story:

God had sent his angel Raphael. He accompanied Tobias, the son of Tobit, on a perilous journey to Midian and eventually heals Tobit of his blindness.

Raphael means God heals.

In the Book of Tobit salvation through God's gracious guidance is presented. It is God who guides and accompanies us on our journey through life. In the appearance of Raphael the message that God wants to communicate to people is revealed.

*Praise God and praise him. Give glory to him and testify in front of all people, what he has done for you.*

*It is good to praise God and to glorify His name and to proclaim his deeds in awe.*

*Do good, then you will meet no evil.*

*It is good to pray and fast, to be merciful and righteous.*

*It is better to have little but just, as much and unjust. It is better to be merciful, then to accumulate gold. Mercy saves them from death and cleanses from all sin. Who is merciful and just, he will live long. He who sins is but the enemy of his own life.*

*I brought your prayer before the Holy God.*

*... your good deed did not go unnoticed, because I was with you.*

*Now God has sent me to heal you and your daughter Sarah.*

*I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who carry the prayers of the saints,  
and bring them before the majesty of God's Holiness.*

*Fear not!*

*Peace be with you!*

*Praise God for ever!*

*Not because I wanted to give you a favor, but because our God would have it, I  
have come to you.*

*During the entire period in which you have seen me, I have not eaten and drunk,*

*Nevertheless, ye shall write down in a book everything that has been done.  
you've seen just an appearance. Now, however, thanks to God! I will ascend back  
to the one who has sent me. (Book of Tobit 12, 6-20)*

As we are we willing to ask God for help and healing of our physical and mental diseases, the infinite love of God will help us.

God will send his angels to heal us, to accompany us and guide us to our true home, the home of unity in God.

To experience God's presence requires the power of love.

It requires constant vigilance and dedication to love God with all our heart and all our soul, and our neighbor as ourselves. To think good and to do good helps us to dwell in God's presence.

Through God's word we are protected from separation, selfish thoughts and actions. Our attitude and orientation towards the Divine connects us to Christ. The dialogue through silent prayer, fasting, searching and asking, praise and worship directs our consciousness to God.

Raphael Music is the inner relationship with Christ in thoughts and feelings through words, melody and rhythm. The archangel Raphael to us is messenger and mediator. By a leading voice and choir a harmonious force field is created, which leads us to tranquility and equanimity. As we sing, our way of thinking will sink into the heart, we can entrust ourselves entirely to the Divine. We are united with God's love, healing occurs by purifying our mind.

The devotion to God in common praise promotes peace and relaxation of body and mind and leads us into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

